

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2126

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PORG, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON - HADDAD'S DEMANDS AND WEIZMAN'S RESPONSE

REF: A. BEIRUT 4474; B. TEL AVIV 9877; C. JERUSALEM 2104

1. JUST AS PARKER'S REPORT ON BOUTROS' REACTIONS TO HADDAD'S DEMANDS (REF A) WAS HANDED TO ME AT 1555, AUGUST 3, WEIZMAN TELEPHONED URGENTLY. HE SAID THAT HADDAD WAS EXTREMELY UPSET. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS SOME WAY WE COULD GET BEIRUT TO RE-INSTATE HIM IN HIS COMMAND IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO GET HIM TO FACILITATE THE LAF MOVEMENT TO TIMNIN.

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2. I SAID THAT SO FAR AS I COULD TELL, THIS WAS TOTALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION. THE BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR WAS A GOL AGREEMENT TO SET ASIDE THE HADDAD PROBLEM FOR THE TIME BEING, PERHAPS THE SORT OF TACIT "POSTPONEMENT" OF HIS SITUATION SUGGESTED BY TEILA TO ME EARLIER TODAY (REF B). TO underscore THIS JUDGMENT, AS PARKER HAD SUGGESTED IN HIS LAST MESSAGE BE DONE, I THEN READ THE WEIZMAN MOST OF THE TEXT OF REF A. THIS DRA-

MATIZED FOR WEIZMAN THE PROBLEM IN BEIRUT AS NOTHING ELSE COULD.

3. THEN ENSUED A LENGTHY AND EXTREMELY EMOTIONAL PITCH BY WEIZMAN ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH HADDAD HAD BEEN LEFT TO FEND FOR HIMSELF FOR OVER TWO YEARS BY BEIRUT, DEPENDENT ONLY ON THE ISRAELIS, AND THAT I WAS NOW TELLING HIM THAT HE HAD TO "SELL HADDAD OUT." BEYOND THIS MORAL QUESTION, WHICH WEIZMAN STRESSED WAS VERY IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR HIM BUT FOR HIS COLLEAGUES, THERE IS THE SECURITY IMPLICATION OF WHAT BEIRUT OBVIOUSLY PLANS TO DO. HE SAID THAT IF HADDAD WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT THIS POSITION, HE WOULD "PICK UP AND LEAVE," THE ENCLAVES WOULD THEN COLLAPSE, AND IN VERY SHORT ORDER THE FATAH WOULD AGAIN BE INFILTRATING CLOSE TO THE ISRAELI BORDER AND PREPARING FOR CLOSE-BORDER OPERATIONS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE HAD LITTLE FAITH IN UNIFIL TO KEEP THE PALESTINIAN INFILTRATORS AWAY; HIS FAITH WAS RATHER IN HADDAD'S COMMAND OF THE ENCLAVES.

4. I THEN AGAIN WENT SOMEWHAT BRUTALLY OVER THE SAME GROUND I HAD COVERED LAST NIGHT WITH WEIZMAN, BEGIN, DAYAN AND YADIN (REF C), SAYING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR WEIZMAN TO CONCENTRATE ON ISRAEL'S OVERALL INTERESTS FOR THE FUTURE, RATHER THAN THE QUESTION OF HADDAD PER SE. WHEN HE TRIED TO ARGUE THAT HE DID NOT CONTROL HADDAD, I AGAIN SAID THAT NO ONE OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT. I ALSO SAID THAT IF THE LEBANESE INSISTED, AGAINST OUR BEST ADVICE, ON TAKING

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THE ISSUE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WE COULD NOT POSSIBLY DEFEND THE ISRAELI POSITION AND THE DIPLOMATIC CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE TERRIBLY UNFORTUNATE FOR ISRAEL.

5. I WOUND UP BY AGAIN URGING HIM TO USE THE AUTHORITY THAT I KNEW HE POSSESSED OVER HADDAD TO PERSUADE HIM TO ACCEPT THE SORT OF DE FACTO SITUATION HE CURRENTLY ENJOYS AS SATISFACTORY, AND NOT TO INSIST ON SOMETHING THAT BEIRUT CAN CLEARLY NOT BRING ITSELF TO DO -- NAMELY, FORMALLY REINSTATING HIM IN HIS COMMAND.

6. WEIZMAN, IN A GREAT STATE OF REJECTION AND WORRY, SAID HE WOULD HAVE ANOTHER GO AT HADDAD AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME IN AN HOUR OR SO.

7. COMMENT: I THINK WE ARE GETTING CLOSER. BUT WE MUST HAVE SOMETHING MORE OUT OF BEIRUT AS WELL. IN WEIZMAN'S TYPICALLY UNDIPLOMATICALLY FRANK COMMENTS, THERE WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE HEART OF THE QUESTION FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT: HADDAD IS ON THE POINT OF THROWING IN THE SPONGE, LEAVING THE ENCLAVES, AND REMOVING HIS LEADERSHIP FROM THE PICTURE. FOR THE GOI, THIS WOULD CLEARLY BEING A RAPID PROCESS OF UNRAVELING FOR THE SECURITY STRUCTURE THEY HAVE LABORIOUSLY PUT

IN PLACE ALONG THE BORDERS SINCE THE COMPLETION OF "OPERATION
LITANI" IN MARCH.
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